

The work of digging can be best done with one of the improved potato diggers, but if the amount of land under potatoes is not sufficient to warrant the purchase of one of these, they may be turned out with the plow and the ground well harrowed afterwards, to turn up any potatoes which the plow has covered. Sort out the small potatoes to be fed to the stock, and store the rest in some outbuilding which is dark and moderately cool, until the time comes for storing away for winter.

Of the different varieties, I have not found any to surpass the Beauty of Hebron for general excellence. It is a good yielder, of first-class quality, and a good keeper. The Pearl of Savoy and Early Telephone are also good yielders, and fully equal to the Hebron in flavor, but not quite equal to it in keeping qualities. The Green Mountain is the best potato for long keeping, and every farmer should have some of these to keep up the supply till the next year's crop is ready. For those who raise new potatoes for market I would recommend the Morning Star. The White Elephant is an immense yielder, and is no doubt the most profitable kind to grow for stock.

In writing this article I have endeavored to give directions which could be followed by the man of small means as well as by the man who has the means to do as he would wish. I have not assumed the most favorable conditions to be present, but my aim has been to show in what way the farmer can best take advantage of the means at his command to secure a good crop.

### Garden and Orchard.

#### Horticultural Specialties for the Canadian Farmer.

(Continued from last issue.)

But does all this discouragement frighten us out of our business? By no means; for while it is unwise to advise everyone to rush into apple culture for profit, the specialist would be a fool who would give up because of one or two seasons' failure. And I think also, that the farmer who has a good orchard of fine varieties, just in bearing condition, who is disgusted because of the difficulties and low price of apples, and who cuts down such an orchard, and grubs it out for the purpose of devoting the ground to some farm crop, is assuredly "pennywise and pound foolish." He is throwing away invested capital, and reducing the value of that land from \$100 to \$200 per acre. Why an apple orchard of twenty years standing, of productive varieties, will surely average one hundred barrels per annum, and most farmers can sell these at home at \$1 per barrel. For the fruit what else could yield that sum? This is not more than an acre should produce, when you consider the time and expense that has been put upon that orchard to bring it to its present condition.

But many will say, "my apple orchard does not yield that amount of fruit." No, probably not, unless you are making it a speciality. Nothing pays, nowadays, without special care. An apple orchard neglected certainly does not pay. How could it yield crop after crop without culture, without manure, and without receiving in place of judicious pruning, an annual butchering with the saw and the axe. Would any crop pay under similar treatment?

The apple needs potash. It is year after year extracting this element from the ground, and, if you do not supply, and other fertilizers besides, such as phosphoric acid, nitrates, and lime, according to the requirements of the soil, the orchard will soon cease to bear fruit in any quantity, or of any degree of excellence. One half of our Canadian orchards are starving to

death. No farmer would expect a good crop of wheat or potatoes without the use of manure; why then does he expect fine apples without it, and cut down his trees because, neglected, they will not do what no other crop could do? Do you advise cultivating an apple orchard? asks some one. You may as well ask a farmer: "Do you advise cultivating your corn crop?" Unless your orchard is vigorous and presents a healthy, dark-green foliage, by all means work it up by ploughing the ground shallow, so as to disturb the roots as little as possible, sow it to buckwheat, or keep the ground cultivated one way until you have developed a good healthy growth, then you may seed down for a few years at a time.

The orchard must have special care, and if a man has not time to give it special care, he may as well be rid of it. Insects must be fought. Large numbers of orchards in this Niagara peninsula are infested with the oyster-shell bark louse, an insect so small that it passes unnoticed; it hides itself under its shell, and there sucks the health and fruitfulness out of the trees. The writer has experimented with soap suds, kerosene, caustic soda and washing soda. The latter is the most economical. A strong solution may be made in a barrel, and about the 1st of June the trunks and about as much more of the trees as appears to be affected, must be thoroughly washed with the solution, at which time the insects are almost microscopic in size, not yet covered by the scale, and are very easily destroyed.

The codling moth must be fought and conquered with Paris green, else this insect will destroy one-third of the finest of the crop; and the canker worm may be destroyed with the same preparation. The mice must be guarded against every fall and winter, the tent caterpillar must be hunted out and diligently destroyed, and many other important precautions thoughtfully attended to.

And after all, when at last a bountiful crop rewards such patient labor, the same careful attention must be paid to the matter of gathering and marketing, or else all previous industry will lose its reward. Eternal vigilance is the price of success. It pays to use a good ladder and a swing-handle basket with a hook attached, and to gather every good apple with a gentle grasp of the hand, taking care that not even finger marks shall show upon the fruit when housed. It pays to spend time enough over the packing to look at every single apple, and to properly assort them into at least three grades. It pays to pack carefully the finest in clean, new barrels, lining head and tail end with white paper; and then the grower may hopefully consign his crop to some honorable and responsible salesman. But failing in all this careful attention, is it any wonder that many of our farmers who find poor sale for the scrubby products of an uncared-for orchard, should declare apple culture unprofitable?

I should include, among my remarks on apple culture, the importance of a judicious selection of varieties. The Early Harvest, the Fall Pippin, the Rambo and the Snow are subject to the spot, and the Spitzenburg no longer produce a crop with any certainty; therefore discard these varieties and plant Yellow Transparent, Red Astrachan, Duchess of Oldenburgh, Gravenstein, Cranberry Pippin, Baldwin, Spy, King, Roxbury and Golden Russets. Such varieties as these

will pay for the most careful attention, and not prove a source of disappointment, as the other varieties have done of late in so many instances.

Strawberry culture frequently pays the agriculturist, but not unless he has the time and the means to give it more than ordinary attention. Many a man has already more irons in the fire than he can attend to, and he will surely get burned with one of them, if not with several. But, given the conditions necessary, and success will surely follow. They are such as: a good, rich, loamy soil, plenty of nitrogenous manure from the barnyard in the autumn. The late Mr. E. P. Roe advised 60 tons per acre; a mulch of straw in December, as soon as the ground is frozen; constant cultivation all summer, both before and after fruiting season, and careful gathering and marketing. Now, if any agriculturist is prepared to make a speciality of strawberry culture in this way, let him try the Crescent, the Wilson and the Sharpless, and go to work with confidence, and he will succeed. Four and five thousand quarts per acre are reported as among the possibilities, especially with Crescents fertilized with Captain Jack.

The same advice may be given with reference to the culture of raspberries and blackberries. Grown as many people grow them, without sufficient cultivation, without manure, without pruning, they cost more than they come to. Every speciality which the agriculturist undertakes beyond what he has time, money, and knowledge to care for in the best manner, will prove an eyesore to him, and a certain loss. The berry patch, of which one-half the produce is thistles, and which is impassable on account of numerous unpruned, straggling branches, is a disgrace; but our experience is, that where a plantation of Cuthbert red, or Gregg black raspberries, or Kittatinny blackberries, has received proper treatment and attention, there is money in them, even at the low prices lately prevailing. The day is past when we could get from 17 to 23 cents per quart for our large Kittatinny berries, and from 15 to 20 cents for red raspberries. A fortune might have been made out of them in those days; but even now good returns may be counted upon by giving them careful and thorough culture.

A fine speciality in the horticultural line is the currant. "Bah!" says some one, "the worm! It will destroy the bushes." My friend, that is one reason for planting them freely; you will have the less competition. Plant an acre of such varieties as the Cherry and Fay's Prolific, on good, rich clay loam, well drained; give them the best of cultivation and manure as you would for a good crop of potatoes; prune back in spring one-third of the last year's growth to induce branching and to keep the stems stocky; give a good sprinkling of hebeore and water whenever the currant worm appears; and ship your crop to market in twelve-quart baskets, or strawberry crates, and you will succeed.

In short, our country has advanced beyond the time when it pays to be a jack-of-all-trades. Nowadays it is classed in the list of big blunders to be "Jack of all trades and master of none." Our agricultural friends must now be specialists. They must, in short, be professionals in the lines they pursue. Division of labor must be more and more the habit of the age, among our farmers. The rule must be, not to follow in the lines of one's neighbor, and do just what he does, so that when one man devotes his atten-